



**Blanchard**  
BUS CENTERS



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October 26, 2018

The Honorable Jocelyn G. Boyd  
Chief Clerk/Administrator  
Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100  
Columbia, SC 29210

**Docket title: Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Approval of Proposed Electric Transportation Pilot and An Accounting Order to Defer Capital and Operating Expenses**

**Docket numbers: 2018-322-E and 2018-321-E**

Dear Administrator Boyd:

On behalf of the coalition of the Blue Bird Corporation ("Blue Bird"), Blanchard Machinery ("Blanchard"), and ADOMANI, Inc. ("ADOMANI"), we support Duke Energy's proposed Electric Transportation Pilot, which includes school bus rebates. The comprehensive suite of benefits that this proposed program will provide to the transportation sector and, in particular, school buses will fundamentally change for the better the way that South Carolina approaches the electric vehicle market while simultaneously protecting the health of our state's school children.

This effort will build upon the unprecedented opportunity provided by the Volkswagen opportunity to support industry develop innovative and transformative all-electric vehicles and components, which will reduce harmful nitrogen oxide (NOx) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, deliver air quality benefits to disadvantaged communities and areas disproportionately affected by diesel pollution, and reduce our dependence on petroleum fuels.

The partnership between Blue Bird and ADOMANI has led to the development of the All American RE electric bus chassis. This innovative electric school bus on an energy-efficient electric drivetrain supplied by Efficient Drivetrains Inc. and offers battery capacities between 100 kWh and 150 kWh, with an expected 80- to 100-mile range from a single charge.

Blanchard has accumulated over 30 years of business experience and has been supplying South Carolina customers with earthmoving machines, engine services, and power generation equipment. The family owned company is South Carolina's official Blue Bird school bus dealer and will provide local support as this coalition continues efforts to advance the deployments of electric school buses.

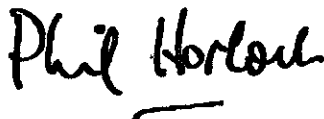
We believe that all-electric school bus projects proposed by Duke Energy will provide the most comprehensive suite of benefits as it directly addresses air quality issues in direct proximity to sensitive receptors and disadvantaged communities, reduces operating costs for budget-constrained school districts, mitigates the need for diesel fuel storage or procurement, and improves public health.

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Indeed, a recent study by the University of Delaware evaluated the costs and benefits associated with a V2G-capable electric school bus compared to a traditional diesel school bus.<sup>1</sup> The study looked at a variety of data points and metrics to compare the fuel types in a school bus application and found that diesel school buses created public health costs of \$0.08 per mile. This is 800% more expensive than the public health costs of an all-electric bus, which is just \$0.0149 per mile.

We offer our support to Duke Energy in the rollout of their electrified school bus projects. Should you have any follow-up questions please do not hesitate to contact us using the information below.

Sincerely,



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<sup>1</sup> Noel, L. and McCormack, R. "A Cost Benefit Analysis of a V2G-Capable Electric School Bus Compared to a Traditional Diesel School Bus". University of Delaware, 2014. <https://www1.udel.edu/V2G/resources/V2G-Cost-Benefit-Analysis-Noel-McCormack-Applied-Energy-As-Accepted.pdf>.